

Name(s) _____
Period _____ Due Date ___/___/___

A.I. Artificial Intelligence

“The ones who made us are always looking for the one who made them.”

Essential Guidelines:

- clearly state the question you are addressing
- you *must* type your responses
- properly head your paper
- edit carefully and cite plenty of evidence
- you must use Word or OpenOffice and save as a .doc file only
- print a hard copy *or* e-mail a .doc attachment to DeMieroV@edmonds.wednet.edu

Part One: Pick *one* of the following questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in 2 ¶s or less. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source. Use examples from the film and/or other related films that would provide supporting evidence.

1. Consider and describe the **mood** and **tone** of this film. Does the **mood** change? Is there anything unique about the **tone** of this film?
2. From whose perspective is this story told? Who is the **narrator**? What impact on the **theme** does the choice of **narrator** and the style of **narration** have on this film?
3. This film presents several challenging issues. Underlying many of these ideas, however, is the concept of **paradox**. Cite and briefly analyze one example of an issue that is based on a **paradox**.

Part Two: Pick *one* of the following questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in 2 ¶s or less. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source. Use examples from the film and/or other related films that would provide supporting evidence.

4. Recall a scene that impressed you aesthetically. What did you like about it – the **editing, camera placement, lighting**, etc?
5. Discuss two memorable scenes in terms of **Camera Placement: Distance from Object**. Refer to your vocabulary handout. Why were these shots used by Spielberg in these scenes? What did the shots mean? Do you agree with the director’s shot selection?
6. Discuss two memorable scenes in terms of **Camera Placement: Angle to Object**. Refer to your vocabulary handout. Why were these shots used by Spielberg in these scenes? What did the shots mean? Do you agree with the director’s shot selection?
7. We know that there are essentially **three types of movement** in film: 1) the viewer’s eye searches and scans the screen, 2) characters or objects move in relation to the frame, and 3) the camera moves across, into or away from its own field of vision. Cite a memorable scene from this film for each of these **three types of movement**.

FILM ANALYSIS

A.I. Assignment · DeMiero

Part Three: Pick *one* of the questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in about 5 ¶s. Depth of thought and meaningful analysis is what counts here, not hot air. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source. Use examples from the film and/or other related films that would provide supporting evidence.

8. The reviews for “A.I.” were mixed. There are some highly respected film critics who are actually quite torn over the film, including the Chicago Sun-Times’ Roger Ebert. Although Ebert gives the film three out of four stars, he has stated that “A.I.” leaves too many evocative questions unanswered. In fact, he states in his review that Spielberg may have failed to explore one of the most compelling themes of this subject matter: “When we lose a toy, the pain is ours, not the toy’s, and by following an abandoned robot boy rather than the parents who threw him away, Spielberg misses the real story.” What do you think? Should “A.I.” have been told through the perspective of the parents rather than through the robot David? Or, is there another perspective or theme that you think would have been more worthy of attention?
9. In the film, saying seven words bonds a robot to its owner forever. Those words are: cirrus, Socrates, particle, decibel, hurricane, dolphin and tulip. Why did Spielberg choose these words? What possible symbolic meaning do these words have?
10. While “love” is clearly a theme of this film, it seems that the struggle to understand why we cannot love is also a worthy motif. One reviewer has said: “(The audience) participates in the dehumanization of the child because we don’t see David as human. And yet throughout the entire film we keep thinking, ‘This is Haley Joel Osment, a real human.’ Spielberg did not use a computer generated boy, he used a real human, and so we feel that inner conflict.” Therefore, does “A.I.” serve as a morality play about current social issues? Do the “Mecha” represent the people we dehumanize for reasons of ethnicity, jealousy or exploitation?
11. Although we live in an information age, Spielberg reminds us that facts and figures do not contain the essence of life – story does. Truth is actually more a product of our fiction, our Fairy Tales, and we really live through our stories. Science fiction has a unique power because it can address current realities with the necessary distance and detachment to convey moral truth. What are two of these truths or themes that “A.I.” explores successfully?
12. What is real? What is reality? Based on your definitions, does David become a “real boy”? Don’t be deceived by this question – this is a difficult concept to explore. Be as lucid and thorough in your response and defense as possible.

Notes:

Release Date2001
Directo Steven Spielberg
Screenplay Steven Spielberg
(Based on the short story “Supertoys Last All
Summer Long” by Brian Aldiss)

Characters:

David..... Haley Joel Osment
Gigolo Joe Jude Law
Professor Hobby William Hurt
Monica Swinton Frances O’Connor
Henry Swinton Sam Robards